

BFPC Biodiversity Report June 2021.

1. Hatt Roundabout.

There are now many wildflowers in bloom, especially ox-eye daisies, providing food and habitat for a multitude of pollinators. The first safety cut of the circumference and north-south diameter of the roundabout was carried out by our contractor on 11th June. This is in line with objective 2 of BFPC's Biodiversity Policy:

- *“Endeavours to conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages. It will adopt practices beneficial for biodiversity regarding cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.”*

During the night of 8th-9th June an old motorboat was dumped on the roundabout by persons unknown. This was reported to Devon and Cornwall Police and to Cornwall Council Highways department as constituting a traffic hazard because of the distraction it could cause for motorists. Cornwall Council (CC) said it would be regarded as fly tipping and would be removed. Without further consultation CC removed it by first smashing it up and then loading it on to a lorry.

2. Tree Planting on A388 Verge

Despite the recent prolonged spell of dry weather, most of the young trees seem to be doing well. In this, the second year of the project, a profusion of annual and perennial wild plants has sprung up. Some such as buttercups, cranesbill and campions are to be welcomed as pollinator friendly. Others such as the host of marsh thistles are potential problems. The flowers of these are also much favoured by bees and butterflies. However, they are exceptionally large plants (up to 1.5m in height) and could deprive the trees of both water, light and nutrients. For this reason, it has been necessary to cut down most of them.

A one metre circle has been strimmed around the trees to give them the best chance to survive. This operation will have to be repeated several times during the growing season for several years to come to give the trees the best chance of thriving. This is not ideal, but there will still be plenty of wildflowers left for pollinators.

Cllr Malcolm Fletcher, June 2021.